Dialogues with the OECD
Strategies for a transforming Italy: demography, work, digitalisation and public policies
Second edition
Webinar series: May-November 2024

PROGRAMME
DIALOGUES WITH THE OECD

Context

In a rapidly evolving world, Italy and its regions face significant challenges related to demographic changes and labour shortages. These issues, common across Europe and beyond, require innovative solutions, and sharing experiences and perspectives can help identify effective responses.

“Strategies for a Transforming Italy: Demography, Work, Digitalisation and Public Policy” is a webinar series featuring experts from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Targeting public sector managers at all levels of government, it explores leading practices for addressing these challenges. The series covers topics such as integrating digitalisation into public administration, adopting artificial intelligence in businesses, policies to include underrepresented groups in the labour market and promoting lifelong education for adults. It offers a platform for inspiring practical and sustainable solutions based on international best practices.

After a successful pilot in 2023, this new series of OECD Dialogues will continue throughout 2024, examining how Italy can chart a path towards a resilient and prosperous future by leveraging technological advances and innovative public policies.

Objectives

- Raise awareness of global trends affecting local communities.
- Discuss the significance of science and research in shaping public policy.
- Highlight economic research methods for local development.
- Disseminate the findings of recent international analyses conducted by the OECD.
- Provide practical examples of policies implemented across OECD countries and regions.
- Foster dialogue and mutual learning among peers.

Recipients

Senior civil servants tasked with responsibilities in public policy design, implementation and evaluation, belonging to Italian national, regional and local administrations.

About the OECD Trento Centre

The OECD Trento Centre for Local Development is an integral part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) and supports the OECD Local Employment and Economic Development (LEED) Programme of Work. Adopting a holistic “data-to-practice” approach, the Centre provides local policy analysis, advice and capacity-building programmes for national and subnational governments to better implement policies for people, firms and places. Visit www.trento.oecd.org for more information.

About Tsm-Trentino School of Management

TSM-Trentino School of Management is an advanced training school established by the Autonomous Province of Trento, the Autonomous Region of Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol and the University of Trento. It is a key resource for training programmes designed to support effective governance and enhance the value of Trentino and its autonomy. The school promotes balanced development across the economy, environment, employment, social welfare and culture. It oversees the design and execution of educational and research activities across a range of sectors, providing a repository of multidisciplinary knowledge and skills for citizens, businesses, organizations and the local community. Visit www.tsm.tn.it for more information.

About SNA-National School of Administration

The National School of Administration (SNA), created in 1957, is the institution that deals with the recruitment and training of managers and civil servants in the Italian Public Administration, with the aim of supporting and promoting the process of innovation and reform of the public administration, through the implementation of activities of management selection, continuous training and applied research. Visit www.sna.gov.it for more information.
DIALOGUE #1.
Demographic slowdown, productivity, wage and income dynamics: the Italian labour market to the test
Speaker: Andrea Garnero
15 May 2024 | 14.30-16.00 | Zoom

The Italian labour market, alongside those in most OECD nations, is confronting significant challenges: the green transition, the advent of generative AI and, most critically, the swift demographic change leading to a shrinking labour force and a rise in the average age of workers. These shifts, poised to profoundly impact both businesses and workers, occur within a labour market marked by stagnant productivity and wages that have been static for over two decades. This presentation will delve into the complex interplay among these factors, fostering critical reflection on the efficacy of conventional welfare tools and labour policies. It will highlight the critical need for innovative strategies aimed not only at safeguarding the economic security of workers and citizens but also at fostering equitable and inclusive growth.

Andrea Garnero, a labour economist at the OECD’s Directorate for Employment and Social Affairs, specialises in wages, collective bargaining, and the green transition. He earned a PhD in Economics from the Paris School of Economics and the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Garnero’s previous roles include positions at the European Commission and as an assistant for economic affairs and the G20 to the Council President. He contributes to the editorial team of lavoe.info.

DIALOGUE #2.
Bridging the gap: effective strategies to address labour shortages and boost productivity
Speaker: Luca Marcolin
5 June 2024 | 14.30-16.00 | Zoom

This session will delve into how governments and businesses are reshaping their strategies to attract, train and retain talent amidst growing demographic challenges and labour shortages in crucial sectors. Such shortages are exacerbating the issue of business productivity, a persistent challenge within the Italian landscape. The session will illustrate how active labour market policies, investments in training and retraining, the integration of cutting-edge technologies and the implementation of flexible working arrangements can bridge the labour gap while safeguarding and boosting business productivity.

Luca Marcolin, an empirical microeconomist at the OECD Economics Department and a researcher at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), specialises in the analysis of firm capabilities (technological adoption, intangible assets, skills) and productivity, alongside their policy implications. His professional journey includes roles at the EBRD, the European Commission, UNCTAD and the World Bank. Marcolin holds a PhD in Economics from the Catholic University of Leuven and two postgraduate degrees from the Paris School of Economics and the École Normale Supérieure (Paris).
DIALOGUE #3.
Well-being, inclusion and sustainability in the post-COVID era

Speaker: Romina Boarini
3 July 2024 | 14.30-16.00 | Zoom

This session will explore the definition of new economic and social paradigms, focusing on well-being, inclusion and sustainability, in response to the pressing global challenges of climate change, digital transition and escalating economic inequalities. It will revisit the critical discourse on the need to move beyond GDP as a development indicator, advocating for metrics that more accurately reflect collective well-being and environmental sustainability. Furthermore, the discussion will examine globally endorsed strategies to tackle these monumental challenges, outlining a vision for a more just and resilient future.

Romina Boarini is the Director of the OECD Centre for Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunities (WISE). In this capacity, she is pivotal in reinforcing the OECD’s role as a leading international organisation on sustainable development, significantly contributing to pivotal global initiatives like the “Beyond GDP” agenda. Since joining the OECD in 2005, she has held several senior positions, including in the Office of the Secretary-General, the Statistics Directorate and the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs. Boarini earned her Doctorate in Economics from the École Polytechnique in Paris.

DIALOGUE #4.
Lifelong learning: the role of local partnerships in fostering employment and growth

Speaker: Michela Meghnagi
18 September 2024 | 14.30-16.00 | Zoom

Addressing the need to enhance and refresh adult skills and facilitate the entry of young individuals into the workforce post-education is a key priority for governments at all levels. Converting challenges into opportunities requires the establishment of robust learning systems capable of aligning skill supply with evolving workforce demands, thereby bolstering societal resilience and economic productivity. This session, informed by recent OECD findings, will delve into the latest trends in local labour markets. It will offer a variety of recommendations and good practices for advancing the skill development of both youth and adults in an ever-evolving economic environment.

Michela Meghnagi, an economist at the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, brings a decade of expertise in researching employment, skill development and regional disparities. Her recent contributions to OECD publications have covered topics such as digital skills and inclusion, skill recognition for low-skilled adults, and local skills ecosystems. Before her tenure at the OECD, Meghnagi was engaged in research at the London School of Economics, Istat, and the UK’s Office for National Statistics (ONS). She holds a Master’s degree in Statistics from La Sapienza University of Rome and a Master’s degree in Economics from Paris Dauphine University (France).
### DIALOGUE #5.
**Artificial Intelligence: a new terrain for international co-operation and competition**

**Speaker:** Lucia Russo  
16 October 2024 | 14.30-16.00 | Zoom

This session will spotlight the OECD’s pivotal role in the governance of AI since 2016, showcasing its contributions to international collaboration through the Working Group on AI Governance (AIGO). The OECD Principles on AI, established in 2019, lay the foundation for AI systems that are both innovative and responsible, upholding human rights and democratic values. Discussions will cover the various strategies countries are implementing to navigate the complexities of public AI governance. This includes policies aimed at fostering the growth of trustworthy AI that supports inclusive economic and social progress, alongside an examination of regulatory trends and governance at the national, regional and global levels.

**Lucia Russo** is an economist and policy analyst within the OECD’s Digital Economy Policy Division, where she focuses on the evolution of AI and national AI strategies, policies and regulatory frameworks. Before joining the OECD, she served as an economist in the European Commission’s Digital Economy and Skills Unit, contributing to digital skills policy development and overseeing the evaluation of EU research programmes in the digital sector. She earned a Master’s degree in Development Economics and a Bachelor’s degree in Economics from the University of Roma Tre.

### DIALOGUE #6.
**Digitalisation of Public Administration: towards a more connected and efficient bureaucracy**

**Speaker:** Barbara Ubaldi  
20 November 2024 | 14.30-16.00 | Zoom

This session will delve into the opportunities and challenges posed by the digital transformation, especially its impacts on local communities, underscoring the need for proactive responses by public administrations at all levels. It will dissect how digitisation’s challenges and innovations can profoundly influence societal and economic structures. Through an exploration of changes in governance systems, the empowerment of public officials and the deployment of shared digital tools, the discussion will focus on harnessing the advantages and mitigating the risks associated with digitalisation. Additionally, it will highlight strategies to enhance the digitisation of public administration, thereby making the delivery of public services more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable.

**Barbara Ubaldi** is the Deputy Head of the OECD’s Division for Open, Digital and Innovative Governments and leads the Digital Governance Unit. In her role, she champions the use of digital technologies and data to enhance government transparency, efficiency and innovation and is instrumental in implementing the OECD’s recommendations on digital government and the OECD Digital Government Index. With eight years of experience at UNDESA, she has a robust background in digital government. A Fulbright Scholar, she earned her MA in Public Administration from Northeastern University, Boston. Apolitical ranked her among the world’s top 20 most influential figures in Digital Government in 2018 and 2019.